



PLACER COUNTY  
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CORONER-MARSHAL



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**EDWARD N. BONNER**  
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

**STEPHEN L. D'ARCY**  
UNDERSHERIFF

## PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Sunday, April 23, 2006 6:45 p.m.  
Date/Time of Occurrence Friday, April 21, 2006 6 p.m.  
Nature of Event: Man's Body Recovered From Under Alta Home  
Location of Call: Alta, California  
Released by: Dena Erwin (530) 308-1384

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### **SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:**

#### **UPDATE**

The body of the Alta man who died when the ground collapsed beneath his home Friday night was recovered at 6 p.m. Sunday.

The victim has been identified as Jason Chellew, 32. Chellew was at home with his wife at 9:30 p.m. Friday evening when the floor and concrete foundation beneath the home's living room collapsed. Firefighters who immediately responded were able to ascertain that Chellew was deceased, but were unable to remove him from the crater before the ground began sinking.

The cause of the collapse has not been determined but geologists have been at the scene all weekend and will continue to seek the cause of the cave-in.

Nearly 100 emergency personnel worked throughout the weekend to recover the victim and no one was injured in the recovery. Those participating in the effort included the Placer County Sheriff's Department, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), Roseville Fire Department, Placer County and state Office of Emergency Services, California Department of Conservation, Alta Fire, Sheriff's Search and Rescue, Placer County Building and Public Works, First Sierra Baptist Church, Army Corps of Engineers Urban Search and Rescue of Marin County, California Highway Patrol, and the California Geological Survey.

Although the incident is now concluded, the property owner will not allow access to Sawmill Road. The media is urged to respect the family's privacy.